

General Construction & Site Supervision Problems

Construction sites are common sources of **Pointless Personal Pollution**. Materials and wastes blown or washed into a street, gutter or storm drain flow directly to Florida's waterways. Sediment is the most common pollutant washed from work sites, creating multiple problems once it enters Florida's waterways.

Sediment clogs the gills of fish, blocks light transmission and increases water temperature, all of which harm aquatic life, disturbing the food chain upon which both fish and people depend.

Sediment also carries with it other work-site pollutants such as pesticides, cleaning solvents, cement wash, asphalt and car fluids like motor oil, grease and fuel. Thus, poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel and oil at the construction site also contribute to water pollution.

As a contractor, site supervisor, owner or operator of a site, *you may be held responsible for the environmental damage caused by your subcontractors or employees.*

Solutions

Best Management Practices that include the proper handling, storage and disposal of materials can prevent pollutants from entering waterways through the storm drain system.



Stormwater BMPs: Solutions for General Construction & Site Supervision Problems

General Business Practices

Keep pollutants off exposed surfaces. Place trash cans and recycling receptacles around the site.

Cover and maintain dumpsters. Check frequently for leaks. Place dumpsters under a roof or cover with tarps or plastic sheeting.

Never clean a dumpster by hosing it down on-site!

Keep materials out of the rain. Cover exposed piles of soil or construction materials with plastic sheeting or temporary roofs.

Designate one area for auto parking, vehicle refueling and routine equipment maintenance. The designated area should be well away from gutters or storm drains. Make all major repairs off-site.



Make sure portable toilets are in good working order. Check frequently for leaks.

Use as little water as possible for dust control.

Cleaning Up

Clean up leaks, drips and other spills immediately. This will prevent contaminated soil or residue on paved surfaces.

Never hose down "dirty" pavement or surfaces where materials have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.

Planning to Prevent Pollution

An erosion control program, worked out before construction begins, prevents or minimizes most erosion and sedimentation problems.



Train your employees and subcontractors. Make these pamphlets available to everyone working on-site. Inform subcontractors about storm water requirements and their own responsibilities.

Schedule excavation and grading activities for dry weather periods.

Control surface runoff to reduce erosion, especially during excavation. Use drainage ditches to divert water flow.

Use gravel approaches to reduce soil compaction and limit the tracking of sediments into streets, where truck traffic is frequent.

Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.

Do not remove trees or shrubs unnecessarily. They help decrease erosion.



Handling Materials & Wastes

Practice Source Reduction—minimize waste when ordering materials. Order only the amounts needed to complete the job.

Use recycled and recyclable materials whenever possible.

Never bury waste materials or leave them in the street.



Dispose of all waste properly. Many construction materials, including solvents, water-based paints, vehicle fluids, broken asphalt and concrete, wood, and cleared vegetation can be recycled. Non-recyclable materials must be taken to an appropriate landfill or disposed of as hazardous waste.

Use a crushing company to recycle cement, asphalt and porcelain rather than taking them to a landfill.

Contacts



To report a spill, learn about waste disposal or report illegal dumping please contact your local public works department. For more information contact your local Water Management District.

KY Transportation Cabinet adapted work by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.